



Andrew Bernstein, MD, MPH
Health Officer

HARFORD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

119 South Hays Street

P.O. Box 797

Bel Air, Maryland 21014-0797

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 3, 2006

Contact: Tina Regester, Public Affairs Specialist, (410) 638-8477

COUNTYWIDE UNANNOUNCED TOBACCO COMPLIANCE CHECKS CITES 16 VENDORS FOR SELLING TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO MINORS

BEL AIR, MD (January 3, 2006)--On December 17, 2005, sixteen Harford County vendors were cited for selling tobacco products to minors during a countywide unannounced tobacco compliance check coordinated by the Harford County Health Department's Tobacco Enforcement Case Manager.

Officers from the Aberdeen Police Department, Harford County Sheriff's Department, Havre de Grace Police Department, and the Maryland State Police along with five volunteers under the age of 18, visited 65 establishments in the county to determine if these merchants were complying with the Maryland Youth Access Law. The law states it is illegal for anyone, including merchants, friends, or parents to sell or distribute tobacco products to youth under the age of 18. At each of the visited sites, the youth would try to purchase a pack of cigarettes.

The establishments that did not comply with the Maryland Youth Access Law and sold cigarette products to the minors were: Aberdeen Crown located at 1026 Middleton Rd. in Aberdeen, Aberdeen Exxon at 7 N. Philadelphia Blvd. in Aberdeen, 7 Eleven #33247A 1407 located at 3901 Pulaski Highway in Abingdon, Emmorton Crown located at 1902 Emmorton Rd. in Bel Air, Food Lion #1423 at 2458 Churchville Rd. in Bel Air, Xtra Fuel at 2476 Churchville Rd. in Bel Air, Wawa #553 at 709 Bel Air Rd. in Bel Air, Peddler Run Gas N G at 3940 Conowingo Rd. in Darlington, 7 Eleven #29978 A located at 1020 Gateway Rd. in Edgewood, EzQuick at 801 Revolution St. in Havre de Grace, Royal Farms #1 at 2620 Mountain Rd. in Joppa, Joppa BP at 602 Pulaski Highway in Joppa, Halseys Food Store located at 707 Old Pylesville Rd. in Pylesville, Highs #68 at 4208 Rocks Rd. in Pylesville, Royal Farms #95 located at 3606 Conowingo Rd. in Street, and Scottys at 1603 Dooley Rd. in Whiteford.

(more)

In six of the visits, the cashier asked the minor for identification yet still sold the tobacco product to them. The other ten vendors cited sold the cigarettes without asking to see any identification. After the sale was complete, the under age youth gave the pack of cigarettes to the accompanying police officer. The officer then gave the cashier, if over the age of 18, a written citation. If the cashier was under the age of 18, the manager/owner of the establishment was cited even if they were not present during the sale. Fines for a first violation is up to \$300, up to \$1,000 for a second violation and fines for a third violation can be up to \$3,000. Stores could actually have their licenses suspended or revoked if they fail to comply with the law.

According to Ruth Maiorana, Public Information Officer for the Harford County Health Department, "The Health Department and local police departments are working together to make sure that both owners and employees of all establishments in Harford County realize that it is illegal to sell tobacco products to minors." This partnership with law enforcement officials is extremely crucial in reducing the number of business that still sell tobacco products to customers under the age of 18.

Maiorana continued, "Although we were disappointed that this compliance check did not find that every establishment visited is complying with the law, we would like to acknowledge the following 49 businesses that understood and obeyed the Maryland Youth Access Law": 7 Eleven #11630 located at 602 S. Philadelphia Blvd., Aberdeen Getty at 409 W. Bel Air Ave., Beard's Hill Liquors (Plaza Liquors) at 939 F. Beards Hill Rd., E & B Food Market (KS Market) located at 101 E. Bel Air Ave., Royal Farms #89 at 1021 Middleton Rd., and Wawa #567 at 231 N. Philadelphia Blvd. all located in Aberdeen. Also complying with the law was 7 Eleven #33075 at 3508 Philadelphia Rd in Abingdon.

In Bel Air, Highs #61 at 118 S. Hickory Ave., Greenbrier Shell at 1201 Churchville Rd., CVS Pharmacy #2499 at 1221 Churchville Rd., 7 Eleven #32271 B located at 1302 Churchville Rd., Wawa #557 at 1505 E. Churchville Rd., Rite Aid #3872 at 1600 E. Churchville Rd., 7 Eleven at 1818 Emmorton Rd., Safeway Store #1652 at 2250 Briar Hill Dr., Wawa #582 located at 2300 Churchville Rd., Eckerd Drugs #6166 at 2444 Churchville Rd., Wawa #574 at 306 S. Main St., Highs #63 at 4 Bel Air South Parkway, Eckerd Drugs #6639 at 5 Bel Air South Pkway, and Shell (Tollgate) located at 703 Bel Air Rd. all refused to sell cigarettes to the minor.

Giant Food #137 located at 1901 Pulaski Hwy. in Edgewood enforced the Maryland Youth Access Law as did the following Havre de Grace vendors: Royal Farms #69 at 405 Juniata St., Acme Markets at 1000 Pulaski Hwy., Weis Market #193 at 943 Pulaski Hwy., BP at 1001 Pulaski Hwy., One Stop Liquors at 903 Pulaski Hwy., Eckerd Drugs #6293 at 1003 Pulaski Hwy., Convenience City located at 866 Otsego St., 7 Eleven #11614C at 911 Ontario St., Highs #30 at 900 Pulaski Hwy., Post Road Liquors Inc. at 1123 Revolution St., Cork & Barrel at 137 N. Washington St., and MacGregors Inc. at 331 St. John St.

(more)

The vendors in Joppa that were visited and that complied with the law were: Island Liquors at 1018 Joppa Farm Rd., Exxon (Magnolia) at 1101 Pulaski Hwy., Mountain Road Deli & Spirits at 1827 Old Mountain Rd., Royal Farms #70 at 500 Joppa Farms Rd., Sheetz #316 at 601 Pulaski Hwy., Rumsey Mini Mart located at 626 Town Center Dr., and Highs #88 at 910 Philadelphia Rd.

In Darlington, Highs #81 located at 1230 Main St., and Dublin Market at 3269 Dublin Rd. in Street refused to sell cigarettes to the minors as did the following Whiteford establishments: Highs #1 at 2420 Whiteford Rd., Whiteford Pharmacy at 2338 Whiteford Rd., Kleins #270 at 1606 Dooley Rd., Saubels Market LLC at 2902 Whiteford Rd., Delta Pizza Whiteford at 2424 Whiteford Rd., and Cliffs Liquors at 4725 Conowingo Rd.

The Health Department's Enforcement Case Manager offers vendor training workshops to store owners and managers to give them the necessary information needed to comply with the Maryland Youth Access Law and to resist selling tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18. To learn more information about this law, to anonymously report a vendor you believe is selling tobacco products to minors, or to request information on Tobacco Vendor Workshops, please contact the Harford County's Tobacco Hotline at 410-638-8424.

###